Cal U Fusion
Coming to Campus

The buzz is beginning about Cal U Fusion, a mobile technology initiative designed to make learning — and campus life — more accessible, mobile and fun.

The new initiative eventually will use smart phones and iPod Touch or iPad devices as interactive tools for teaching and learning. Before long, customized Cal U Fusion applications will be a part of the Cal U classroom experience, reshaping the way education is delivered.

But first, Cal U Fusion will make campus life even safer and more convenient.

Beginning in the fall 2010 semester, the mobile version of Cal U’s website will be accessible on any smart phone or mobile device, putting campus news and information at the fingertips of students, faculty, staff and Cal U alumni.

Also this fall, Cal U Fusion “apps” will be available for the iPhone and iPod Touch. Initial offerings will let users:

• Press a button on an iPhone to summon help in an emergency.
• Order and pay for food “to go” from AVI Fresh, the campus dining services vendor; the meal will be ready at the student’s specified location.
• Find their way with an interactive Cal U campus map that helps users navigate the campus and find a building’s location.

In addition, a “shuttle tracker” will make it easy to catch a ride on the University’s Vulcan Flyer fleet. Riders can use any smart phone, mobile device, laptop or desktop computer to track the path of Vulcan Flyer buses on their route between the south campus at Roadman Park and the main campus.

To support this initiative, Cal U’s wireless infrastructure will be expanded to provide more robust and reliable Wi-Fi service. As mobile devices multiply on campus, new applications will be developed to enhance the quality of campus life and, in the words of the University’s Strategic Plan, “instill not just learning but the love of learning.”

Gala Raises Scholarship Funds

Flashbulbs popped and sequins sparked as more than 320 members of the Cal U community returned to “The Golden Age of Hollywood” June 5 to boost the University’s scholarship fund.

Dr. Angelo Armenti, Jr. and First Lady Barbara Armenti hosted the 17th annual President’s Gala at the Omni William Penn Hotel, in Pittsburgh.

Guests enjoyed fine dining, a silent auction, casino games and dancing to the music of the Benny Benack Orchestra.

Net proceeds from the event — the University’s largest annual fundraiser — support student scholarships. Since 1994, the event has raised more than $1.24 million.

“This was a year of remarkable achievement at Cal U,” President Armenti told the black-tie crowd. “In the past 12 months, our academic offerings have been strengthened and expanded. Our athletic teams have won statewide and regional titles. Our beautiful campus continues to evolve, and our enrollment continues to grow.”

The program featured a videotaped “year in review” and presentation of awards.

Dr. Jay D. Helsel ’59 received the Lillian M. Bassi Core Values Award — and delighted the group with his humorous acceptance speech.

Faculty award winners were Dr. David Boehm for teaching, Dr. Andrae Milas for research and Dr. Mohamed Yamba for service. Emeriti honorees were Dr. Anthony Saludis and Joanne Raleigh ’80. Honorary chairs were Dr. David ’70, ’72 and Kathleen Amati.

Medal of Valor

Tom Kapola, interim chief of University Police, pins a Medal of Valor to the uniform of Officer Josh Mrosko while University President Angelo Armenti, Jr. reads the wording on a plaque awarded during a ceremony June 2 in Old Main.

Mrosko was honored for assisting borough police at a fire last December at the McMonagle’s bar and apartment complex in California Borough. He rendered aid when he found the borough officer struggling to pull an unconscious victim from the second floor of the building. Also receiving a Medal of Valor was Cpl. George ‘Dew’ Kyle (far right) who pulled a student from a burning building in 1986. Kyle found the student unconscious on a couch when he responded to a house fire at the site now occupied by the Eberly Science and Technology Center. Both officers are credited with saving lives.
Outstanding Cal U Women Honored

Three outstanding female students were honored in at the end of the spring semester for their excellence in the support and advancement of women at California University of Pennsylvania. Katie Kingsley, Kim Lucchini and Ann Blakeslee accepted the Spring 2010 Outstanding Woman of the Year plaques at a luncheon April 30 presented by the President’s Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW).

The awards are given each semester by the commission with the support of President Angelo Armento, Jr.

“The women are definitely the architects of a better society, wouldn’t you agree?” said Dr. Lisa M. McBride, special assistant to the president for equal employment and educational opportunity, University ombudsperson and interim president of the PCSW in the Office of Social Equity.

Kingsley was honored as a graduate student, Lucchini as a non-traditional undergraduate and Blakeslee as a traditional undergraduate student. All three women received their diplomas May 7-8.

- Kingsley graduated with a Master’s of Education in school counseling. As a graduate assistant she worked with Fran Fayish, a nurse practitioner and wellness educator. All three are also a recipient of the Student Counselor of the Year Award at Cal U.

In her personal time, she collected items for women and children at the Washington Women’s Shelter.

“What sets Katie apart from others is that she is extremely self-motivated and reliable 100 percent of the time,” Fayish said. “She completed every assignment delegated to her without fail and does so in a way that always exceeds my expectations.”

- Lucchini graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Liberal Studies with minors in Industrial Organization, Psychology and Women’s Studies.

She is co-founder and was vice president for the new student group Social Justice Activism Now — or So Just Act Now! — which helps to achieve social justice not only for members of the campus community but also for the community at large.

In its first year, “So Just Act Now!” planned a major event to increase social awareness of the pay gap between men and women in Pittsburgh.

Lucchini helped to coordinate events for the annual Audrey-Beth Fitch Women’s Conference and for the “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” event to raise awareness of violence against women.

She was also a student member of the PCSW — but was kept in the dark about her own award!

- Blakeslee credited Dr. Marta McClintock-Comerais, an assistant professor and director of the Women’s Center, for her growth as a student and as a woman.

“Throughout my studies at Cal U, ‘Dr. Mac’s’ classes have been my favorites because they’re relevant in my life. Because of ‘Dr. Mac,’ I discovered many things about myself I didn’t know … All these things happened because one very special professor saw something in me, believed in me and took the time to help navigate me through.”

Blakeslee graduated with a bachelor’s degree in International Studies. She is in the Honors Program and works full time. She has demonstrated her commitment to equity issues by raising awareness on Capitol Hill about women in Darfur, Sudan, who are being victimized when rape is used as a weapon of war.

Her Honors thesis, “Funding for Equality: Breaking the Glass Ceiling of the United States Senate,” discusses the difficulties often faced by female candidates.

She lives in California, Pa., Mayor Casey Durdines ’07, who was so impressed with his first female intern that he hired another woman based on her recommendation.

“I knew Anne was a standout when we first met,” said Dr. Melanie Blumberg, professor of Political Science and campus director of the American Democracy Project. “She is an intelligent and engaging young woman who takes on difficult challenges. The more demanding the assignment, the more she relishes the challenge.

Speaker at the luncheon was Kay Durrance, the P.E.A.C.E. Project coordinator, victim’s advocate for the Student Development and Services area of campus and coordinator of the Women’s Center. She was the Spring 2008 Woman of the Year winner, and she welcomed the new group “to the club.”

Gena Sproul, assistant director in the Office of Social Equity, was the master of ceremonies for the event.

Seek Offers Two Sessions

Children entering grades 1-8 this fall may register for SEEK, the Summer Educational Enrichment for Kids program, to be held on campus.

SEEK will offer two weeklong sessions, July 12-16 and August 2-6. The program is conducted through Cal U’s Office of Lifelong Learning. Launched in 2000, SEEK provides learning experiences that are entertaining, yet academically challenging.

“Our goal is for children to explore new topics in a fun learning environment,” said Terrie Greene, Cal U’s executive director of Lifelong Learning. Classes run from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

Children are escorted between classes and supervised during lunch. Each child will need to bring a bag lunch; refrigeration is not available. Registration is on a first come, first served basis. Once a child is registered, the family will receive a confirmation letter listing the classroom location. This confirmation letter must be presented on the first day of class.

Cost is $125 per child for a full-week, full-day program, or $80 per child for a full-week, half-day (morning or afternoon) program.

In 2007, the Learning Resources Network, an international association in lifelong learning, honored California University for excellence in generational programming. Cal U was recognized for developing SEEK in response to needs expressed by area parents. The program was selected from a field of more than 100 entries from four countries.

Those interested in SEEK may register by mail, in person or by calling 724-938-5840. Completed registration forms can be faxed to 724-938-5963 or mailed to: California University of Pennsylvania, Office of Lifelong Learning, 250 University Ave., Box 12, California, PA 15419. Payment must accompany the registration form.

For more information about SEEK, visit www.calu.edu and type “SEEK” into the search box.

Thank you

Rosanne Pandrok, interim assistant vice president/budget director in the Office of Administration and Finance, would like to thank the University community for their support, generosity and acts of kindness during the recent loss of her father. The thoughtfulness is sincerely appreciated.

Exhibit Explores Clemente’s Life

Roberto Clemente Walker (1934-1972) remains a legendary figure in sports, in philanthropy and in the hearts of millions of Puerto Ricans and Americans — especially those in western Pennsylvania. With a cannon arm and lightning speed, he was an outstanding baseball player, but the Puerto Rican native’s advancement of women at California University of Pennsylvania is only Western Pennsylvania venue to host the exhibition.

Beyond Baseball: The Life of Roberto Clemente was developed by the Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires. designation for developing SEEK in response to needs expressed by area parents. The program was selected from a field of more than 100 entries from four countries.

Those interested in SEEK may register by mail, in person or by calling 724-938-5840. Completed registration forms can be faxed to 724-938-5963 or mailed to: California University of Pennsylvania, Office of Lifelong Learning, 250 University Ave., Box 12, California, PA 15419. Payment must accompany the registration form.

For more information about SEEK, visit www.calu.edu and type “SEEK” into the search box.

Thank you

Rosanne Pandrok, interim assistant vice president/budget director in the Office of Administration and Finance, would like to thank the University community for their support, generosity and acts of kindness during the recent loss of her father. The thoughtfulness is sincerely appreciated.

Exhibit Explores Clemente’s Life

Roberto Clemente Walker (1934-1972) remains a legendary figure in sports, in philanthropy and in the hearts of millions of Puerto Ricans and Americans — especially those in western Pennsylvania. With a cannon arm and lightning speed, he was an outstanding baseball player, but the Puerto Rican native’s advancement of women at California University of Pennsylvania is only Western Pennsylvania venue to host the exhibition.

Beyond Baseball: The Life of Roberto Clemente was developed by the Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires. designation for developing SEEK in response to needs expressed by area parents. The program was selected from a field of more than 100 entries from four countries.

Those interested in SEEK may register by mail, in person or by calling 724-938-5840. Completed registration forms can be faxed to 724-938-5963 or mailed to: California University of Pennsylvania, Office of Lifelong Learning, 250 University Ave., Box 12, California, PA 15419. Payment must accompany the registration form.

For more information about SEEK, visit www.calu.edu and type “SEEK” into the search box.

Thank you

Rosanne Pandrok, interim assistant vice president/budget director in the Office of Administration and Finance, would like to thank the University community for their support, generosity and acts of kindness during the recent loss of her father. The thoughtfulness is sincerely appreciated.

Exhibit Explores Clemente’s Life

Roberto Clemente Walker (1934-1972) remains a legendary figure in sports, in philanthropy and in the hearts of millions of Puerto Ricans and Americans — especially those in western Pennsylvania. With a cannon arm and lightning speed, he was an outstanding baseball player, but the Puerto Rican native’s advancement of women at California University of Pennsylvania is only Western Pennsylvania venue to host the exhibition.

Beyond Baseball: The Life of Roberto Clemente was developed by the Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires. designation for developing SEEK in response to needs expressed by area parents. The program was selected from a field of more than 100 entries from four countries.

Those interested in SEEK may register by mail, in person or by calling 724-938-5840. Completed registration forms can be faxed to 724-938-5963 or mailed to: California University of Pennsylvania, Office of Lifelong Learning, 250 University Ave., Box 12, California, PA 15419. Payment must accompany the registration form.

For more information about SEEK, visit www.calu.edu and type “SEEK” into the search box.

Thank you

Rosanne Pandrok, interim assistant vice president/budget director in the Office of Administration and Finance, would like to thank the University community for their support, generosity and acts of kindness during the recent loss of her father. The thoughtfulness is sincerely appreciated.
Cal U’s Council of Trustees unanimously voted to seek bond financing for $7 million in ‘smart classroom’ technology upgrades in Duda, Eberly and Keystone halls.

Trustees to Seek Funding for Classroom Technology

At the June meeting of Cal U’s Council of Trustees, members voted to seek bond financing for $7 million in “smart classroom” technology upgrades in Duda, Eberly and Keystone halls.

The plan calls for every “smart” classroom to be outfitted with a high-definition projector, speakers, Blu-Ray DVD player, zoned lighting and other teaching technology. Level 2 classrooms also would include high-definition videoconferencing equipment for distance learning, and a pair of “confidence monitors” at the back of the room, so professors can monitor their presentations.

Level 3 classrooms would be outfitted for enhanced distance learning with equipment that includes a 4-inch touch-screen display and a push-to-talk microphone at each student seat.

“This lays the groundwork for what we will be doing here for the next 15 to 25 years,” said Leo Krantz, chairman of the Trustees.

“You can have all the plans in the world, but it’s the leadership of President Armenti, his staff and Cal U’s great faculty that sets us apart from the rest,” he added. “We are doing things right.”

In other business:

• Provost Geraldine Jones, vice president for Academic Affairs, explained that as of June 1, the number of applications from freshman seeking admission in fall 2010 is up by roughly 7.5% compared to last year.

• “It’s still early, and we feel it’s very likely that we will again have an enrollment increase,” she said.

Jones also noted that Cal U completed the re-accreditation process this spring. The Middle States Association’s preliminary report indicates that Cal U met or surpassed all 14 accreditation standards.

• Bob Thorn, interim vice president for Administration and Finance, reported on construction progress across campus. The Convocation Center is about a week behind schedule, he said, because of time lost during the February snowstorm. The Vulcan Garage parking facility remains on schedule to open in August.

• Dr. Nancy Pinardi, associate vice president for Student Development and Services, presented a history of the Student Association Inc. that closed with slides and descriptions of the organization’s latest jewel—the 98-acre Harris property adjoining the University’s south campus. SAF, which purchased the land last month, will conduct a feasibility study this fall to explore options for using the property, which adjoins Roadman Park. Preliminary plans call for a cross-country course and walking path; a farmhouse on the land will be used for meetings.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for our students,” she said.

• Angela Burrows, vice president for University Relations, gave a multimedia presentation detailing the activities of the public relations, marketing and web teams.

She described the University’s participation in a national survey of alumni magazines, and reported that once again this quarter Cal U was the university with the largest presence in the greater Pittsburgh media market.

• Ron Huiatt, interim vice president for University Development and Alumni Relations, described efforts to engage alumni with events at off-campus sites throughout the Eastern Seaboard. He reported on the capital campaign, which has brought in nearly $21 million on its way to a goal of $35 million.

• Dr. Charles Mance, vice president for Information Technology, reported that the effort to move University information systems to the Banner administration suite remains on schedule and within budget, and that the Desire2Learn learning management system — which will replace BlackBoard and eCollege — is being used in this summer’s classes.

The next Trustees meeting is scheduled for Sept. 1.

Awards of Distinction

The Alumni Association presented its 2010 Awards of Distinction at a luncheon June 5 in the Performance Center of the Natal Student Center. Theses awards have been presented annually since 1967. Award winners are: (seated, from left) Juan Helal, winner of the Pastiak/Shustz Special Service Award; Rosemary Buchhainer ’69, Alumni Association past president; Dr. Mary Seman ’82, the C.B. Wilson Distinguished Faculty Award; and Dr. Paul Gentle ’62, the John R. Gregg Award for Loyalty and Service. (Standing, from left) Thela Kalicis ’06, the Young Alumni Award; Amy Lombard ’01, executive director of Alumni Relations; Dr. Charles J. Gorman ’57, the Michael Duda Award; Dr. Ronald J. Smerick, University President Angelo Armenti, Jr.; and Dr. John R. Cerroch, the W.B. Jackman Award of Distinction. Also honored were Davey Vincenzo, the Michael Duda Award for Athletic Achievement; and Joseph M. Grushockey ’71, the Professional Excellence Award.

Former FBI Agents to Teach Online Courses

The Institute of Criminal and Forensic Sciences at California University of Pennsylvania has partnered with the Academy Group Inc. (AGI) to offer online training courses in criminal behavioral sciences. The Internet-based courses cover a wide array of behavioral topics, including forensic linguistics, death scene investigation, criminal profiling techniques.

Courses are taught by AGI practitioners, former FBI supervisory special agents who gained investigative experience in the famed Behavioral Science Unit at the FBI National Academy and the National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime at Quantico, Va.

Internationally recognized in their respective fields, instructors Roy Hazlewood, Dr. Roger Depue, Jim Fitzgerald, Mike Napier and Pete Smerick have taught and lectured across the United States and around the world.

Cal U will provide certificates of completion for each AGI module taken online. Participants who wish to enroll in academic courses at Cal U may be eligible for “prior learning” credit. These courses also may meet the requirements for continuing education in various jurisdictions.

In addition to online learning opportunities with AGI, the Institute of Criminological and Forensic Sciences at Cal U offers professional services for police officers, detectives, district attorneys, coroners, public defenders and others involved in the administration of justice.

The Institute’s team of highly trained criminologists and forensic, behavioral and legal scientists is available to provide real-time investigative consulting and face-to-face professional training.

To learn more about the Institute of Criminological and Forensic Sciences, or to register for courses with AGI instructors, visit http://institutes.calu.edu/forensics.
Greek Life Director Honored for Distinguished Service

Joy M. Helsel, director of fraternity/sorority life and special publications at California University, received the 2010 Distinguished Service Award by the Theta Xi Educational Foundation Pittsburgh recently at a luncheon on campus of Robert Morris University.

The foundation’s primary mission is to raise tax-deductible funds in support of the educational needs of students in the Allegheny District of Theta Xi National Fraternity. Its board is composed entirely of alumni volunteers.

The foundation supports the fraternity through contributions toward the regional and national leadership academies, and by providing financial assistance directly to students in the form of scholarships.

The award was a surprise for Helsel, who has worked at Cal for more than 20 years. She thought she had been invited to attend the luncheon because she had facilitated training and helped Cal U’s Theta Xi when it hosted the District Leadership Academy in February.

“Joy Helsel has been an outstanding student affairs professional, and it was our pleasure to present her with the 2010 Distinguished Service Award for her many years of service to Theta Xi Fraternity at California University of Pennsylvania,” said Foundation President Ron Shidemantle, who presented the award.

“Her work with students supporting the mission and values of the American fraternity movement has been outstanding.”

“It was shocking because it was so unexpected, and awkward because I am just not used to being the person to receive an award,” said Helsel, who was a member of the Sigma Kappa sorority while earning two degrees from Cal U in 1983 and 1986. “I was very flattered, though.”

Cal U is well represented on the Theta Xi Educational Foundation of Pittsburgh Board. Alumni members include Cal U employees Larry Sebek, LaMont Coleman and Tony Mauro, as well as former Vulcans football standout Butch Ramsey. Other Cal U alumni on the board include Walt MacFann and David Shields. Cal U senior Joe DeNards, a sport management major, is an undergraduate representative.

Although Helsel was surprised by the honor, the Cal U community was not.

“For years Joy has worked closely and done an outstanding job with our fraternities and sororities,” said Sebek, associate dean for student services and past Theta Xi (Beta Sigma Chapter) president.

“Her experience in Greek life as a student here, along with her emphasis on community service, makes her not only knowledgeable but also a mentor and friend to our Greek organizations.”

Scholarship Winner: It’s Never Too Late

When an automobile accident last summer prevented Kris Bober from continuing her job as a police officer at Carlow University, the Washington, Pa., resident and mother of three enrolled in the Completion Degree program at California University.

Less than a year later, her skillful prioritizing and academic success have earned her a scholarship.

Bober, 41, has received the Olga Yetsconish Grazzini Scholarship, which is awarded annually to a non-traditional student from Fayette, Washington or Westmoreland County.

The scholarship defines a non-traditional student as a student who worked for at least five years after graduating from high school, or a student who was a homemaker or who served in the military.

“I was shocked and very proud when I found out I won this scholarship,” said Bober, who has a cumulative grade-point average above 3.80.

Bober is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Liberal Studies through Cal U’s Office of Lifelong Learning’s Evening College. This is one of three flexible, accelerated degree programs designed for nontraditional students. These degrees may be completed entirely by taking evening and/or online courses.

Bober has taken classes both on campus and online. Because she has transfer credits, she plans on graduating in two years.

“I find the online courses to be very demanding, because you have to be your own schedule keeper and are more accountable,” Bober said. “It’s convenient, though, because you can do your class work at 3 a.m. or at noon, if you prefer.”

Bober said she decided to look into Cal U after her injury because of the school’s academic reputation.

“Kris really is what our completion degree programs are all about,” said Kelly Hunt, special programs director and adult recruiter.

“She’s a full-time mom, a former police officer, a grandmother-to-be and also a full-time student maintaining a very high grade-point average. That shows excellent time management and commitment.”

Bober said she hasn’t settled on a new career path, but completing her degree is important.

“I know I am capable of having a degree, and I want my kids to know it’s necessary to have a college degree in life,” she said.

“Continuing education should always be in one’s sights. It’s never too late.”

Summer Program Offers Reading Support

The Cal U Reading Specialist Program will work with young readers from 9 a.m. to noon weekdays, June 23 to July 28, in the Keystone Education Building on campus. The summer program offers reading support for children in grades 1-12, with individual diagnostic testing and remedial tutoring, as part of the graduate Reading Specialist Program. Each child will work with a certified teacher who is earning a second certification as a reading specialist. Parents or guardians of each participating child will receive a case report and a summary of the child’s reading progress at the conclusion of the program. Children in the program attend on June 23-25, June 28-30, July 1-2, 6-9, 13-14, 20-23, and 26-28. Cost of the program is $100. To enroll a child, request registration materials from Dr. Christine Peterson, associate professor in the Department of Elementary/Early Childhood Education, at 724-938-4028 or at peterson@calu.edu.

The California Journal is published weekly by California University of Pennsylvania, a member of The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

Dr. Angelo Armenti, Jr. University President
Geraldine M. Jones Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Joyce Hanley Executive Vice President

Dr. Lenora Angeline Vice President for Student Development and Services
Angela J. Burrowes Vice President for University Relations
Dr. Charles Mance Vice President for Information Technology

Ron Huiatt Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations
Robert Thorn Interim Vice President for Administration and Finance
Christine Kindl Editor
Bruce Wald Writer
Wendy Mackall Writer

Office of Communications and Public Relations  •  250 University Avenue, California, PA 15419  •  724-938-4195  •  walld@calu.edu

The Journal is printed on paper made from trees harvested under the principles of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (www.sfi.org).

INTEGRITY • CIVILITY • RESPONSIBILITY